

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Capps

(916) 651-8750

QUAKE-DAMAGED PARK WILL REOPEN IN ENCINO

ENCINO – Los Encinos State Historic Park, severely damaged by the 1994 Northridge earthquake, is reopening to the public after an 18-month renovation project, including reconstruction of an adobe structure dating back to 1849.

The reopening ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 27. The public is invited to enjoy music, living history demonstrations and other entertainment into the afternoon.

“What better way to welcome a Southern California summer than by reopening this park that has become so popular with neighborhood families,” said Ruth Coleman, Acting Director for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. “These wonderful buildings take our visitors back to a special time in California history, and the beautiful grounds provide plenty of space for children to play.”

State Sen. Sheila Kuehl of Santa Monica, who was instrumental in securing state funds for the renovation project in addition to the federal disaster relief funds that were made available, will preside over the ceremonies. Officials from California State Parks, as well as local dignitaries, are scheduled to attend as well.

The park has been closed to the public for the past 18 months while reconstruction of the historic buildings was completed. The park grounds had been open to the public immediately after the earthquake but the historic buildings have been closed for the past eight years.

The 4.7-acre Los Encinos State Historic Park is all that remains of a 4,460-acre Mexican land grant in the San Fernando Valley. The park, which was acquired by the state in 1949, includes an adobe structure dating back to 1849 and a two-story limestone building constructed in 1872, which once served as a stage coach stop and later as a restaurant. The two-story Garnier building is now used as a visitor center and will reopen with the park on April 27. The adobe structure will remain closed while a new interpretive plan is developed for it.

Dudek & Associates, Inc., whose corporate offices are in Encinitas, Calif., served as project manager and construction inspector at Los Encinos. The firm worked with State Parks, private architects and structural engineers to achieve the full restoration of the park's historical structures and ensured that all historical elements such as finishes, components, and assemblies were identified, documented, restored and protected.

Dudek & Associates' Project Manager for the Los Encinos State Historic Park was Shannon Goodrich, Senior Construction Manager, Construction Management Division. The president of the firm is Frank Dudek, P.E.

"It was truly a pleasure working with everyone on the California State Parks team with this important historical restoration and rehabilitation project, and it was extremely interesting as well as a pleasure for our team members," he said.

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